

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
September 2, 2021

Meeting Location:

Online Meeting

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Molly Chase - Chair
Makeda Cheatom
Allison Soares
Chris Eddy
Brer Marsh
Howard Blackson
Sarah Dawe
Victoria Curran

Members Absent

Katherine Johnston
William Aaron Jr.

Staff Present

Andrew Field
Codi Vierra
Christina Chadwick
Mario Llanos
Johnny Chou

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Molly Chase called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Mario Llanos read the statement listed on the agenda that this Committee meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the California Executive Order 29-20 which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 22, 2021

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. NGUYEN / MS. DAWE

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Ms. Dawe to approve the June 3, 2021 meeting minutes with the amendment of Victoria Curran being present. The motion carried unanimously (4-0-6)

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman – HPR International Cottages thanked all the City staff involved in making our new cottages grand opening event last Sat. a success. Appreciates all the efforts in making the area look great from moving a few concrete trash barrels to cutting down the leaning palm tree. She also thanked all of the SDPD multi-cultural officers who participated in a pre-event walk thru and those who attended the Sat. grand opening.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Molly Chase introduced Councilmember Stephen Whitburn. Councilmember Whitburn thanked all the Board members and City staff for all their hard work.

Chairperson Chase thanked Stephen Hill and the Mayor's office for the appointment.

STAFF REPORT -

City Council Third District – Codi Vierra reported Council office will host a virtual workshop in collaboration with Commission for Arts and Culture regarding various funding opportunities. Seeking nomination for 12 Most remarkable Teens.

Assistant Deputy Director – Christina Chadwick reported Park Master Plan was approved 8-1 by City Council. Moving forward with restoration of Municipal Gym exterior and the exterior of Comic Con building. Casa del Prado secured \$3.7 million state funding towards renovation. Currently working stakeholder to develop a scope of work. City council approved the Botanical Garden naming and recognition program for phase 2 of the construction by a vote of 8-1. Parks and Recreation Department and the Commission for Arts and Culture enter into an agreement to display the Nikigator in Balboa Park.

Balboa Park District Manager – Johnny Chou reported the two new restrooms at Nutmeg and Thorn off of 6th Ave. have power and have passed inspections. The restrooms are nearing completion and should be open to the public imminently within weeks. Twilight concert series ended on Aug. 26 with Santana Ways. The concert series received many positive comments from attendees. December Nights will be the Taste of December Nights for another year. We are hoping to incorporate the use of all 3 lots at Inspiration Point.

Balboa Park Operations District Manager – Mario Llanos reported Balboa Park Maintenance and Citywide Support Services staff worked hard to do a landscape renovation in front of the Mingei in time for their grand opening. The work included demo of existing concrete, pouring of mow curbs, major irrigation upgrades, planting 2000 square feet of sod and planting ornamentals to transform the entrance to the Mingei at the Plaza De Panama. In the upcoming weeks the Mingei will reinstall the Nikigator Sculpture. Beginning Monday September 13 to Thursday the 16th, the Plaza De Panama at the northern end and the area in front of the Mingei will be resurfaced with the colored Street Bond to match the color previously used by the Sewer and Pipeline Project. We intended to do it sooner, however, we wanted to wait until after Labor Day and the Mingei Renovation to complete it. Unlike the first time, the Cabrillo Bridge and road in the Central Mesa will not have to be closed. Just some areas of pedestrian traffic.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES (Time allotted to each speaker is determined by the Chair; however, comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes)

Forever Balboa Park – Sarah Beckman thanked Parks and Recreation and Mayor's office for approval of the Botanical Garden renovation. More than 600 volunteer and staff of 33 including 16 full time employees. Operating budget of \$6.8 million. Looking forward to working with the Balboa Park Committee.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Michael Warburton reported the reopening of Mingei Museum will be September 3.

Committee of 100 – Roger Showley reported building permit for putting up the bears and post on top of the Auto Museum have been submitted. Started a Go Fund Me account to help get the Comic Con Museum painted.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper reported they have been without water due to some sewer issue. Hope to have good news next month.

ACTION ITEMS

101. None

ADOPTION

201. None

Special Events

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. BLACKSON/ MR. NGUYEN

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve consent item 301 and 302. The motion carried unanimously (10-0-0)

Special Events (Special Events that require road or plaza closures or will potentially impact park and/or institution operation, are brought to the Committee for a formal recommendation. They can be moved to consent by action of the committee.)

Item 301. Rock'n'Roll 5K Post Event Change. Presenter: Meryl Leventon, Race Director
The organizers of the Rock'n'Roll 5K are requesting to reinstate the post event activities such as the beer garden, food trucks and stage for live music for their event on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Amplification to begin at 6am-10am, with no sound checks. The beer garden to operate from 7:15am-10am.

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for Rock N Roll 5K to have post event activities.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. NGUYEN / MR. EDDY

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve consent item 302 MORE THAN PINK Walk 2021 route change. The motion carried unanimously (10-0-0)

302. San Diego MORE THAN PINK Walk 2021- Presenter: Ellen Larson, In Motion Events, Vice President requesting to change the site location from 6th Ave. & Laurel North Lawn to 6th Ave. & Laurel South Lawn and change the route of their walk from a 5K race to a 2 mile walk on Sunday, November 7, 2021 from 5:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Set-up will begin the day before at 7:00 a.m. and breakdown of equipment to occur on the same day as the event ending at 3:00 p.m. The new proposed route will double back across the bridge ending at the event site.

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for the location change and route change for 2021 and re-evaluate for future dates.

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No action taken; subject discussed by the committee and staff.)

401. Natural History Museum Landscape General Development Plan Workshop. Presenters: Judy Gradwohl, President and CEO, San Diego Natural History Museum and Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning

Mrs. Gradwohl presented an introduction of the San Diego Natural History Museum. Vicki Estrada presented the landscaping plans for the Natural History Museum.

Public Comment: 3 Speaker - Michael Warburton, Peter Comiskey, Kevin Carpenter.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Unfunded Needs List Introduction. Presenter: Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, City of San Diego

Charlie Daniels presented the unfunded needs list for Balboa Park. Mr. Daniels would like the committee to consider additions and deletions to the list individually and recommends 3 workshops to address West Mesa, Central Mesa and East Mesa.

502. Municipal Gym Restoration. Presenter: Roger Showley, Committee Of 100

Peter Showley made a presentation on the history of Municipal Gym. Kevin Carpenter talked about the "bucket of paint club". He presented a timeline for the restoration of the building.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting: October 7, 2021
6:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Johnny Chou
District Manager